

Children Public Hearing

February 27, 2014

Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. No. 203

Submitted by: Sarah Skinner, Social Work Intern at Southern Connecticut State University

Good morning members of the Committee on Children. My name is Sarah Skinner and I am a student at Southern Connecticut State University and my internship is through the Department of Children and Families.

According to the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, there were 61,472 cases of child sexual abuse reported in the United States in 2011. Children should be educated about the dangers of sexual assault and abuse. When a child is a victim of sexual abuse and assault, there should also be policies and procedures to assist these children through their tough times.

When I was a sophomore in college, I took a self-defense course. After the class was over, I felt as though I was an empowered woman that could defense herself. Some people do not have the privilege to take a class like I did. By educating children about the dangers of sexual assault and abuse, more classes could be offered for willing participants.

Advocating is a value of social work that I want to possess. This is why I decided to take a stand and advocate for children to be educated about sexual assault and abuse. I feel as though it is important to give a child the knowledge about sexual assault and abuse before they encounter it or know someone that has experienced this.

Thank you,

Sarah Skinner, Social Work Intern